

# THE REHEARSAL.

1. Why no Rehearsal last Wednesday. The Story of William Bigger—
2. The *Observer* Exhibits his Charge to the Parliament.
3. His Charge Retorted, and shew'd to be the same method they took with King Char. I.
4. The Modern Meaning of the Old Word *Protestant*. One Presbyterian Bigger then the whole Church of Scotland.
5. He says the Laws ought not to be Executed, but According to the Pleasure of those in Power.
6. He plays the Union against the Church of England.
7. This would have been taken very ill from me.
8. The Church can take Nothing ill.

SATURDAY, December 4. 1768.

(1.) Rehearsal.

**W** Here were you last Wednesday, Countryman? I expected you to have Met me according to Wont. Do you think it nothing to Disappoint so many Honest Gentlemen, who love to hear you and I talk? This will be a Prejudice to our Paper.

Country-m. It is but an Intermitting of the Pulse—We may do well enough for all that, not to make a Custom of it. I'll tell you Master, I went to hear a Grave Don tell a Story he had to send you by me. He Open'd his Mouth before he spoke, and so De-li-be-rate-ly, that tho' it was very Short, it kept me so long, that it was too Late to come to you that Night. You will find it in the *Observer* of the 17. last Month, N. 79. Where a terrible Out-cry is made about one William Bigger a Presbyterian—Holder—Forth in Ireland, who was sent by the Northern Presbyteries there to Propagate the Gospel, and set up a Presbyterian-Meeting in Drogheda upon the Boyne, within Twenty Miles of Dublin, where the Lord Primate had his Palace, and they have had no Dissenting-Meeting there these Twenty Years. This Gave so much Disturbance to the Town, that the Grand-Jury did present it, and William was committed, pursuant to the Act of Uniformity. But the *Observer* tells us he was releas'd by the Judges.

Rehears. Well. What have we to do with this? It is in another Kingdom, and they know their own Laws. Why do you trouble me with these poor Little Stories.

(2.) Country-m. Do you think it a Little thing to be brought before the Parliament?

I hope (says *Observer* N. 79.) that now our Parliament is met, an Enquiry will be made—And, the Case of Ireland requires a Speedy Consideration.—It is a direct Affront to her Majesty—

Rehears. What? To have the Laws put in Execution!

Country m. Yes. Against Presbyterians! That those (says he) who have a Legal Toleration in England, and have the National Establishment in Scotland, shou'd yet be made Subject to Prosecution in Ireland.

(3.) Rehears. That is, shou'd be Subject to the Laws in Ireland! This makes good what I have always told you. That they will never be Content till they have All! And the more Favours are Heap'd upon them, do's but open their Mouths to Clamour for More! And they will say, They are Ill us'd, if any thing be Deny'd them!

This is just as they serv'd the Queen's Royal Grandfather in Scotland. When to Please them he had Establish'd Presbytery there (for which he sorely Repented in his *Eikon Basilike*, and Attributed all his after Misfortunes as Just from God, for this his Wicked preferring Human Politicks, to the Dictates of a Right Inform'd Judgement as he himself words it) And he had Granted them every thing that they Ask'd, put those in Places whom they Nam'd, and Turn'd out those whom they Requir'd, and left the Government wholly in their own Hands, till they own'd they had no more to Ask. And there was such an Union (as the Phrase then went) A Contented King, and a Contented People. And O how they prais'd his Moderation, and Vow'd Eternal Loyalty! But the use they made of the Power he had given them was,

To raise an Army against him, and follow him into England, to have Episcopacy Abolish'd there too. What! Should they who had the National Establishment in Scotland, be made Subject to Prosecution in England, and in Ireland too! (Do's the *Observer* know his own words?) And because the King and the Laws would not Consent to them, they overturn'd Both, and by the help of their Good Brethren in England and Ireland, they Ruin'd both Church and State in all the three Kingdoms, and got the whole Government into their own Hands.

*Country-m.* Two Eggs are not liker than these Two Cases. They are now going the same Track exactly over again! But might not I retort the *Observer's* words more strongly against himself and say, That they who have (at least) a Legal Toleration in England, and have (as yet) the National Establishment in Ireland, should be made Subject to Prosecution in Scotland? And if I should Call this, A direct Affront to her Majesty, as the *Observer* do's, and tell her her Duty, as he do's in the following words, That notwithstanding the Laws, None of those Intrusted with the Administration there, should be Suffer'd to Persecute Protestants.

(4.) *Rehears.* Thou dostn't Understand thy *Admirer-Tongue*! The word Protestant (in the Whigg-Cant) do's not Mean the Church of England. It is not the Coffee-House-Style. If thou would'st go there to hear Breeding, thou would'st know the Use of Words! Thou wilt not else Understand the *Observer*, for by Protestants here he means None but the Dissenters.

*Country-m.* I thank you, *Master*. This will open my Understanding in many Cases. Now I know their Meaning of the Protestant Church and the Protestant Religion and Protestant Interest! William Bigger was a Protestant, therefore the Queen ought not to have Suffer'd him to be Committed, and tho' it was according to Law, yet it was Persecution! But the Episcopal Clergy in Scotland are no Protestants, therefore it was no Persecution to Imprison them, tho' it was Contrary to Law!

(5.) *Rehears.* This likewise gives us a New Notion of Law. For we are not to look to the Letter, but what will be Pleasing Above! I doubt not (says the *Observer*) but his Grace (the Lord Primate of Ireland, and now one of the Lords Justices there) knew that our House of Lords had put a Stop to the Proceedings of the High-Flying Party against Protestant Dissenters in some of our West India Plantations; and therefore might have readily Concluded, that such Proceedings as these, against the Presbyterians in Ireland, could not be very Acceptable to the British Government, now that the two Nations are United.

(6.) *Country-m.* Why! Is the Presbyterian Interest the Stronger for the Union? Then the Episcopal must be Weaker! This is a Healing Notion to give us of the Union!

But Next, as you say, the Judges by this are to have no Regard to the Law, but to what will be Acceptable to those in Power! See the Whigg-Patriots of Liberty and Property!

Thirdly, the Case of William Bigger is made the Case of all the Presbyterians in Ireland, ay, and in Scotland too, and of the Calvinists in Silesia, for he brings them All in, and Asks what They will think of it?

(7.) But he would take it very ill, if one should say, That the Case of all the Bishops and Clergy in Scotland should be taken Notice of by any in the Christian World, especially by the Church of England! And if you should Add (as he do's in the Case of Bigger) Now that the two Nations are United, he would Swear that this was a Reflection upon the Union, and that you meant to Stir up the Church of England to be Jealous of it!

(8.) *Rehears.* The Presbyterians love to Hang all together. If you Touch the Meanest of them, you strike them All to the Heart. They are All Heart. But the Church of England is better Bred. They do not Intermeddle in one another's Concerns! They are *Individuum Vaganti*. Like Oaks of the Wood, you may Shoot a hundred of them one by one off a Tree, the Rest only Stare at those that Fall, but not one offers to stir! They can take Nothing ill! You know they never did in their Life! Therefore the *Observer* has Loaded her like an Ass, with Passive-Obedience on the one side, and Non-Resistance on the other. Crouching down like *Issachar* between two Burdens, for She saw that Rest was Good, and Bowed her Shoulder to Bear!

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